

P A T E N T **OFFICIAL****UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re: Michael S.H. Chu et al. Confirmation No.: 6707
Serial No.: 09/430,050 Examiner: A. Lam
Filing Date: October 29, 1999 Group Art Unit: 1641
Docket No.: 1001.1258101 Customer No.: 28075
For: SPLIT VALVE FOR PEEL-AWAY SHEATH

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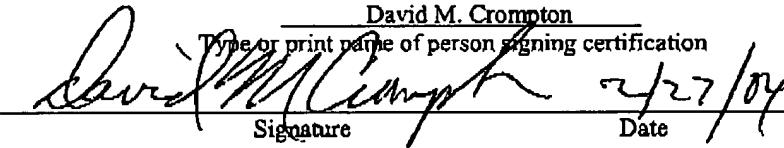
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AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8 (1)(i)(B)**

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at fax number 703-872-9306 on the date shown below.

David M. Crompton

Type or print name of person signing certification


Signature2/27/04
Date

Dear Sir:

This paper is in response to the Final Office Action mailed December 31, 2003, with priority period set to expire February 29, 2004 and a shortened statutory period set to expire on March 31, 2004. This paper is filed within the set priority period for response such that no extension of time is necessary.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9.